

# The Washington Post

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HOWARD SIMONS  
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University  
School of Medicine  
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Josh:

I tried desperately to reach you over the last three days to tell you that Wednesday I was told that we are changing some of our columns. We are adding some new ones and subtracting some old ones, and, in addition, plan to make over the opposite-editorial page.

One of the options for your column is to put it in the Sunday Outlook Section. But you should know that I, as editor of the Outlook Section, am hesitant to do this. This is so because I have always been reluctant to take fixed weekly pieces and commit Outlook to them. As you can appreciate, this limits my flexibility with the section.

Another option, and the one that I personally favor and would like to urge you to consider seriously, is becoming a monthly commentator for Outlook. What I have in mind is a once-monthly 1200-1500-1800 word article or commentary by you in Outlook each month. I think this would help both of us. I think it would help you because it would give you more time and more space in which to fully develop a thought, a new discovery, a concern. As we are both aware many times over the last few years you have strung together a series of much

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shorter pieces on a weekly basis and, frankly, I don't think that has been a satisfactory situation. For one thing it forces the reader to remember what you said the week before and how it relates to what you now are saying this week.

I think, too, that by appearing in Outlook monthly you will still command, perhaps moreso, the audience you and we want your comments to reach. I have no problem with a monthly contribution for Outlook, which is after all a journal of commentary and essays.

After you have given this some thought I would appreciate it if you would call Ben Bradlee, our executive editor, and discuss this new possibility with him.

I am off tonight and will return at the end of July.

Best regards,

*Howard*

Howard Simons  
(Signed by secretary)

HS:pw

cc: Mr. Bradlee